

29 August 2019

Pierre Bedard
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To: Los Altos City Safe Streets Commission via Jaime Rodriguez

While I serve as a library commissioner for the City of Los Altos, the views expressed below are my own as a member of the Casita Way Association and a resident of Los Altos.

Commissioners,

Two months ago, I testified before this Commission about the traffic study presented in support of the El Camino 5150 project. I'm here to report that the Developer, Dutchints, and the Planning Department are happily trumpeting your approval of the Traffic Study to the world at large. It is prominent on the brand new Planning Development website, put there for the benefit of the public.

As part of my testimony, I (and others) asked some questions which remain unanswered.

The Casita Way Association, asked that this study be undertaken. We asked that the city to assess the safe routes available to kids going to Almond, Egan, and Los Altos High School in light of this (and other) development on El Camino. ***The point was not to buttress the application of a Developer about to subject the community to over three years of construction.***

Inadequate Due Process. The Commission posted the agenda two days before the meeting. Included in the revised agenda was over 200 pages of detailed pdf. The public had no chance to adequately review the documents. But, even with this very small window for review, the report, especially in the areas of parking, was rebutted in writing by two citizens. This is akin to when the Planning Department reached out to the City Council to fund the preparation of a Negative Declaration. They didn't even assess the need – the focus on the end result tromps on resident rights of review, however legally it's done

Where's Waldo? Where is the traffic hub? Where is the transit center used as the basis for all parking and traffic concessions? The Commission accepted the Dutchints word at face value. Erik Hayden stated that the parking was within state law. Zac Dahl from planning quickly chimed in and seconded it.

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Did I miss something? What law were you looking at? Was it the law as detailed in Eric Steinle's reasoned memo addressing the issue? Or is it just a subjective, biased assertion meant to justify the density bonus on 5150?

Carnage on Casita. This is why we wanted the Commission's involvement. My son was hit on Casita Way riding to Los Altos High, almost 15 years ago. Anecdotal evidence points to one major incident per month. Where is the incident data on Marich, Distel, and Casita? Do these records not exist?

How many children have been hit on Casita? How many accidents have occurred on Casita? What traffic calming measures have been taken on Casita, Marich, and Distel?

Is this data available to the City, the Commission, and the Planning Department. If so, can you share it before the next Planning Commission meeting on the 5th of September? It seems somehow relevant to the 5150 El Camino discussions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Pierre Bedard

For Casita Way Association

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